



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Sept. 8, 2005

Marshall Center supports Hurricane Katrina relief efforts



Chip Jones/Michoud Assembly Facility

The pumping station at Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans churns out floodwaters while two barges rest nearby. The barges were hoisted by Hurricane Katrina against the Michoud levee, which sustained some cracks, but did not break. Several buildings at Michoud had wind damage to roofs, as well as water damage.

By Rick Smith

The Marshall Center is providing aid and resources to NASA personnel, their families and two Agency facilities recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

NASA's Stennis Space Center near Gulfport, Miss., and the Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans, were hit hard by Katrina. Approximately 3,500 NASA civil service and contractor employees work at the two sites, in addition to some 4,600 employees of other federal agencies.

The Marshall Center is working to restore communications and power to both facilities, and to deliver supplies to recovery teams and on-site personnel. The first of numerous transports — an Army helicopter loaned to Marshall by Redstone Arsenal — left Marshall Aug. 30, carrying security personnel and engineers to help secure the Michoud facility, set up emergency communications equipment

See Katrina on page 2

Marshall implements program management and public outreach

Mercury-bound spacecraft captures stunning images of Earth

By Sherrie Super

The Mercury-bound MESSENGER spacecraft captured hundreds of stunning images of Earth during a recent gravity-assist swing-by of its home planet.

A movie created from those images follows Earth through one complete rotation, with the movie's final frame taken from 270,847 miles away — farther than the Moon's orbit.

MESSENGER, short for Mercury Surface, Space ENvironment,

GEochemistry, and Ranging, is the seventh mission in NASA's Discovery Program of lower-cost, scientifically focused exploration projects. The Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington has assigned the program management responsibilities for the project formulation, development, launch, mission operations, and risk assessments to the Marshall Center's Discovery and New Frontiers Program Office.

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A movie comprised of 358 frames captured by MESSENGER, including the three above, follows one Earth rotation.

NASA/JHU/APL

Katrina

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and aid in damage assessment.

For more than a week, trucks from the Marshall Center have traveled to Stennis, delivering building supplies, construction tools, tarps and a variety of personal items, from groceries and bottled water to diapers and medicine. The Army helicopter and another provided by NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla., are daily flying supplies and equipment from Stennis to Michoud, which remains accessible only by air until flood waters recede.

Last Friday, engineers at Marshall established a 10-megabyte communications link with Stennis. The temporary system will carry voice and data messages, speeding up the recovery process until normal communications resume. Marshall also is sending three large power generators -- back-up systems for the fleet of generators now servicing Stennis and Michoud until routine power is restored.

On Sunday, seven NASA mechanics, three electricians and three engineers flew from Marshall to Mississippi to relieve Stennis Center workers. They are expected to be the first of several NASA teams rotating in and out of the affected centers, coming from NASA field sites all over the nation. Regular flights from Marshall to Stennis will continue to bring in goods and supplies, including portable air conditioning units, washers and dryers and other equipment.

The Marshall Center has called upon its workforce to open their homes to families of displaced Stennis and Michoud employees in coming days, helping them get back on their feet as recovery efforts continue across the Southern coast. Marshall teams are working with the local chapter of the American Red Cross and with Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer's office to ensure NASA efforts are coordinated with the overall community response.

The Marshall Center also is partnering with Huntsville City Schools, City of Madison and Madison County Schools to enroll children of impacted NASA employees in local schools.

Numerous Stennis and Michoud employees will be provided work accommodations at the Marshall Center and other field centers until their own offices are restored.

Activated in the wake of the Aug. 29 disaster, the Marshall Center's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is coordinating with the NASA Headquarters EOC and other EOCs throughout the Agency.



Chip Jones/Michoud Assembly Facility

Stennis Space Center in Mississippi was hard hit by Hurricane Katrina, but the stands where the Space Shuttle Main Engines are tested received little, if any, damage, according to preliminary inspections. About 4,000 Stennis employees, family members and others took cover at the Center during the storm.

Peter W. Allen, director of emergency management at Marshall, is coordinating the Center's role.

Stennis Space Center primarily serves as a key hardware and engine testing facility for NASA. The Michoud Assembly Facility is responsible for constructing the massive Space Shuttle External Tanks that help lift the Shuttle to orbit.

NASA has designated a telephone number (877/470-5240) for displaced employees to call for assistance and to advise NASA of their whereabouts. Family members also may use the number to inquire about employees and others sheltering at Stennis and Michoud. For contact information for employees and contractors, or for general public information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/eoc>

In addition, NASA has established a toll-free number (888/362-4323) for recorded updates about general conditions at Stennis and Michoud. For updates on the Web, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/hurricane>

For information about NASA and Agency programs on the Web, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/home>

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Public and Employee Communications Office.

MESSANGER

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The images, taken with the wide-angle camera in MESSENGER's Mercury Dual Imaging System, were sequenced into a movie documenting the view from the spacecraft as it departed Earth. Comprising 358 frames taken over 24 hours, the movie follows Earth through one complete rotation.

MESSENGER will conduct the first orbital

study of Mercury, the least explored of the terrestrial, or rocky, planets that also include Venus, Earth and Mars. Over one Earth year, or four Mercury years, MESSENGER will provide the first images of the entire planet and collect detailed information on the composition and structure of Mercury's crust, its geologic history, the nature of its atmosphere and magnetosphere and the makeup of its core and polar materials.

Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., designed, built and operates the MESSENGER spacecraft and manages the mission for NASA.

The movie of Earth, as seen from NASA's MESSENGER spacecraft, is available on the Web at: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/multimedia/video/2004/video05-145.html>

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Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue is 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

Miscellaneous

Nintendo 64 & Game cube with several games & accessories, \$150. 256-339-6677

Solid Maple china cabinet, \$400; Cedar hope chest, \$200. 256-830-5663

Pearl snare drum w/case, pad, stand, key, lesson books, \$150. 882-6449

Billy Goat lawn vacuum/leaf mulcher, gas-powered, \$175. 683-9364

Maternity clothes, size small/medium; green plaid canister set w/fruit, napkin holder, salt/pepper shakers. 489-6221

U-Haul paper moving pads, new, never used, 4 packages, \$4 each. 694-0412

Janome 5700 embroidery machine w/5 memory cards. 777-3782

Fiberglass ladder w/support brackets, 24', \$125; Whirlpool range, self-cleaning, \$95. 772-1870

Guitar, 12 string, \$300; banjo, 5-string, \$250; Epiphone guitar, \$150. 233-5247

White satin wedding basket ensemble, 6-piece; 4 baskets; Bible and ring bearer pillows; \$120. 256-682-9727

Beau Soleil tanning bed, 20 bulbs, 3-month old facial tanner. 256-586-2994

Pennsylvania House video cabinet, Cherry, holds up to 30" TV, VCR/DVD, \$750. 931-427-2059

All-in-one X4270 Lexmark printer/copier/scanner/fax, \$50; color ink cartridge, \$20. 541-1788

Two woven wood blinds, 3'x3', and 3'x9' inside dimensions, white/blue, \$25. 883-2948

Two tires, Goodyear Integrity 225/60R16, 7/32" tread remains, both for \$50. 520-3874

Upright tabletop small knife case, \$25; two plots, Huntsville Memory Gardens, \$2,000. 256-881-4067

Ping Frontier golf staff/cart bag, blue/black color, 11" top, \$65. 256-714-3742

Refrigerator; round oak pedestal table, chairs; Oak dining room table, chairs, lighted hutch. 464-8506

Kenowa scooter, black, gas-powered, 49CC, 1-year old, lockable storage box, \$150. 539-9808

Round pool, 24', with filter system, \$200. 256-518-2424

Olive sectional sofa w/throw pillows, \$500. 881-2131

Curio cabinet, 52x78, 2 doors, 3 panels with four glass shelves, \$425. 722-4741

SoundTech PA/studio 8-channel mixing board, never used, \$300. 303-3702

Golf club, Callaway Steelhead Plus 4 wood, steel shaft, \$30. 256-325-2717

Hand-held DVR, Archos-AV420, audio photo, video, recorder/player, 200Gb-HD remote, \$395. 655-1986

Vehicles

Gulfstream, 36', 30K+ miles, generator, jacks, VCR, camera, awning, bath, kitchen, bedroom, \$36,000. 256-931-0177

1993 Islander Baja 180 ski boat, 18', 3.0L Mercruiser, \$2,500. 256-739-6919

1999 Mercedes SLK 230 convertible, silver w/black & red leather, sports package, 57K miles, \$19,900. 653-1401

2005 Nissan Frontier SE King-Cab, 11K miles, 265HP, 28mpg highway, \$19,950. 837-1774

Murray minibike, 3.5HP 4-stroke Tecumseh engine, \$300. 379-3700

2002 Ford F250 Super-duty crew-cab Lariat, 7.3 diesel, 4x4, 136.7K miles, white, \$20,500. 256-497-3518

2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS, 2WD, white, low miles, one-owner, \$18,500. 256-565-9918

1995 Isuzu Trooper, fully loaded, AM/FM radio/cassette w/12 CD changer, \$5,570. 256-828-5439

1997 Chevrolet Tahoe, 2-door, 350, auto, red, leather, 118K miles, \$7,000. 852-4168

2001 Buick Century, silver, 130K miles, \$4,350. 430-0110

1967 Chevy truck, new paint, rebuilt motor, \$3,500. 256-325-3696

1992 Mazda cab-plus pickup, LE package, 5-speed manual, bedliner, AM/FM, a/c, one-owner, \$3,400. 828-0006

2001 Ford Explorer Sport, 74K miles, \$8,000. 479-1650

1998 Chevy Suburban, burgundy, leather interior, fully loaded, 135K miles. 508-4596

1995 CAD DeVille Concours, black, all-power, leather, \$3,000. 520-2802

Wanted

Cherry/Apple/Peach wood fruit trees to cut and haul away. 256-656-2965

Console piano. 772-7845

Used hot tub, will pick up. 461-9404

Free

Kittens. 828-3181

TEAC A-400 cassette deck; Garrad zero 100 record changer. 256-883-8194

Obituaries

Peter Wright, 77, of Huntsville, died Aug. 23. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1985 with 23 years of service as an aerospace technologist in the Computations Lab. He was a retired U.S. Army colonel and previously worked at the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal.

Survivors include his wife, Jean Wright; three sons, Col. John T. Wright, Peter H. Wright and Paul C. Wright; and three daughters, retired Lt. Col. Jean-Marie C. Wright, Teresa A. Wright and Carol E. W. Vernon.

Charles D. Mann, 85, of New Hope, died Aug. 30. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1981 as a supervisor in personnel management.

Survivors include one son, Gary C. Mann of Salt Lake City; one daughter, Celia Mann Baehr of Mobile; two brothers, Albert H.

Mann Jr. of Huntsville and Ernest Mann of New Hope; and two sisters, Virginia Ruth Mann and Ruby Nell Walker, both of New Hope.

Malcolm Feril NeSmith, 81, of Athens, Ga., formerly of Huntsville, died Aug. 28. He was a charter member of the Marshall Center and retired in 1984 as an aerospace engineering technician.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia NeSmith; and two sons, Jerry Blake NeSmith and John David NeSmith.

Harold Newton Scofield, 70, of Meridianville, died Aug. 31. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1999 as an aerospace engineering technician in technical management.

Survivors include one son, Russell Scofield of California.

Combined Federal Campaign kickoff set Sept. 20

By Sherrie Super

The kickoff for the annual Combined Federal Campaign — an effort by federal employees and military personnel to raise money for local charities — will be Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the NASA Picnic Area.

The kickoff celebration begins at 10 a.m., followed by an agency fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will feature more than 50 local charitable organizations that will benefit from this year's campaign.

The campaign theme is "Compassion In Action," and Marshall employees are encouraged to wear their Combined Federal Campaign T-shirts. The fund-raising goal is \$1.8 million for the entire Tennessee Valley 2005 Combined Federal Campaign.

The kickoff event will give Marshall employees — along with participants from Redstone Arsenal and the remaining 34 area federal agencies — the opportunity to learn about the charities, attend a Corvette car show, enjoy refreshments and register for door prizes. The grand prize is two free airline tickets to any location in the continental United States.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be Sept. 27 in the Bob Jones Auditorium in Bldg. 5304 of the Sparkman Center at Redstone.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Public and Employee Communications Office.

'Original 7' astronaut Schirra visits Marshall



Walter Schirra, at right, one of the "Original 7" Mercury astronauts, laughed as he recounted his space flight career to Marshall employees who filled Morris Auditorium Aug. 26. Schirra is the only one of the three living Mercury astronauts who flew in all three of the nation's pioneering



David J. Higginbotham/MSFC

David J. Higginbotham/MSFC

space programs -- Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. After his presentation, Schirra signed copies of his new book, "The Real Space Cowboys," with co-author Ed Buckbee, a former NASA public affairs officer. Schirra also spoke at the annual Von Braun Forum at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

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